



The Surrey Amateur Radio Club

Communicator



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and Much More!

The Newsletter of the Surrey Amateur Radio Club

January 2015



At The Last Meeting...

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The Last Meeting Was The Christmas Party... Here's what it was like



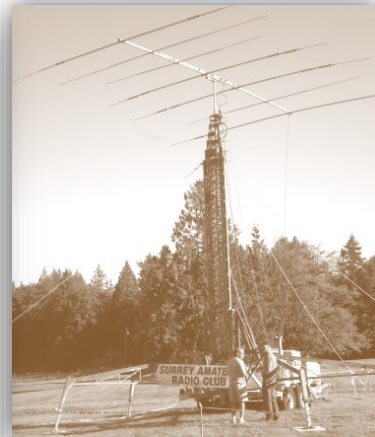
Fifty people attended this year's Christmas party for what was perhaps our best ever. The facilities, service and food was great and there have been many positive comments, so much so that we have booked the restaurant for next year.

Special thanks to John TI for proficient M/C duties and the creative FD video, and to Jinty for another great job of organizing the myriad of details.

Elizabeth, your music was enjoyed by all so thank you for sharing your considerable talents with the group.

And last but not least, Scott, who deserves our thanks for taking care of the mundane but necessary chore of "financial management".

*More photos can be viewed at:
tinyurl.com/SARC14Xmas*



The **SARC Communicator** is published monthly except July and August for members of the Surrey Amateur Radio Club.

To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery of this newsletter, notify SARCcommunicator@outlook.com

Non-members living in the Greater Vancouver area may receive one trial issue.

Beyond our membership area, annual Communicator subscriptions are available for a \$5 donation towards our Field Day fund.

SARC maintains a website at www.ve7sar.net that includes club history, meetings, news, photos and other information.

January 2015

Introducing...

SARC's 2014 Amateurs Of The Year

It has become tradition every year at our Christmas Party, that we acknowledge those SARC members who have provided extraordinary service to the club or made outstanding contributions to amateur radio.

Here is a list of past recipients:

2007 Anton James VE7SSD

2008 John Brodie VA7XB

2009 Gary Skett VE7AS, Ken Clarke VE7BC, Kjeld Frederiksen VE7GP

2010 Fred Orsetti VE7IO, Bill Gipps VE7XS, Hiu Yee VE7YXG

2011 John Schouten VE7TI, Bill Little VE7ZBL, Susan Eshelmann VE7IIE

2012 Nicole Stopa VE7PET, Arthur Siemens VE7SIE, Dave Cameron VE7LTD,
Steve Coleman VE7MAN, Jim Smith VE7FO, Fred Orsetti VE7IO

2013 Jinty Reid VA7JMR, Rob Gilchrist VE7CZV, Brett Garrett VE7GM

Hiu Yee VE7YXG

Presented by Bill Gipps VE7XS



*Hiu Yee and
Bill Gipps*

The recipient of this commendation was also a winner in 2010 but by popular demand we thought it appropriate to honour him once again for his two decades of service to the club as website manager.

That SARC has one of the best amateur radio club websites anywhere is in large part a reflection of the care and attention paid to it by this person.

No, he didn't create the latest version of the website - that was done by someone else.

But he created the original one and he has been responsible for maintaining both old and new, which means working with the domain provider and website host, and doing all the routine things required to keep it up to date, accurate and inviting to those who wish to know more about SARC and its activities.

Furthermore, through this long period of service we have relied on this member to always be there with his camera, recording club activities even though he has to travel a long way from his home to do so.

By now you know we're talking about Hiu Yee VE7YXG.

Hiu please come forward and accept our thanks once again for your years of faithful service, your technical expertise and careful attention to one of the most essential jobs for maintaining the image of the club.

Al Peterson VA7ALZ

Presented by John Brodie VA7XB

We wish to honour another rather new member, a person who has had his ham licence for only a couple of years.

He comes from Langley and in that short time with SARC he has brought his enthusiasm for working with the other members, helping with the organization of our Foxhunt, pitching in at Field Day where he helped with the public information table and organized the youth activities, and took on the big job of moving equipment and supplies with a trailer.

He's the kind of guy that doesn't have to be pressured into volunteering. He sees a need and steps up to fill it.

Last June he agreed to take on a Director's position and since then has involved himself in the organization of activities and behind the scenes administration of the club.

In his short time with SARC he has become a valued member of the Club and Executive.

Al Peterson VA7ALZ, please come forward and receive our thanks for your much appreciated contributions.



*Al Peterson and
John Brodie*

John Schouten VE7TI

Presented by Stan Williams VA7NF

Here is another member that has been honoured in the past but his contributions are so extraordinary that we would be remiss if we did not say thank you again.

You will know who I am talking about immediately. He's the editor of the Communicator, our monthly newsletter. This newsletter is so professional, artistic and informative that it routinely gets admiration from far beyond the Surrey Club.

Not only that but this person is a Director of the club, looks after membership and takes an active role at Field Day.

Last Field Day he was responsible for the unprecedented attention we got from the media, the public and 3 levels of government, all of whom paid us a visit.

He also succeeded in confirming a contact with the International Space Station using a handheld antenna while the media were there to observe and record it. As a result SARC made the Global BC TV newscast which gave us bragging rights for weeks after. In addition, the FD video that you have just seen was entirely John's doing.

I can't say enough about this guy... he's the type of generous and talented contributor that most clubs can only dream about having.



*John Schouten and
Stan Williams*

January 2015

Al Neufeld VE7CDC

Presented by Brett Garrett VE7GM



*Al Neufeld and
Brett Garrett*

I'm sure we all know someone who commonly seems to be around whenever things go wrong. I've known a few in my life. And over the years I've learned there are two types of people who fall into this category.

One type is the person who, for no obviously good reason, seems to be followed by a black cloud. Whenever they arrive on scene, the downpour of doom shortly follows.

The other type of person who is around whenever things go wrong arrives on scene when they sense disaster is about to strike, to ward it off like a magic umbrella.

Our awardee today is very much that second type.

My first opportunity to observe this individual in action was at Field Day 2013. Things can always be expected to go somewhat awry of the plan at large events such as Field Day. I had expected we'd have some "oopsies". And sure enough, they started to happen. And then I noticed something else. They started to get fixed. And, more commonly than not, there was one guy who seemed to be at the centre of these mysterious, and often rather humorous, fixes.

Well, it turns out, this wasn't unusual for this particular guy, and I wasn't the only one to notice.

And so, this year, I'm pleased to say he was nominated by one of our other members who noticed that our magic-umbrella-wielding superhero frequently volunteers when no one else offers to step up.

The justification for the nomination specifically mentioned Field Day, and the following attributes of the nominee:

- He is a good teacher and explains complicated things so they are more easily understood by beginners. For example, he showed a real talent in guiding our young visitors how to make contacts on the GOTA station at Field Day.
- He is also very innovative [I would have said "bizarrely creative" here] in thinking of novel ways to deal with unexpected problems, an ability that he has displayed to good effect on several occasions.
- He is noted for his ability to stay calm in stressful situations and he has a great sense of humour. [I would have said "weirdly funny".] Regarding his sense of humour, our nominator says "I have to say that it's a rather unique sense and we all had to adjust our reactions to accept that he usually displays his humour with a straight face."
- He is a long time member of this club but has been inactive until the last year because of heavy work commitments. Now that he has one foot in retirement we are pleased to observe that he is becoming increasingly more involved and we fully expect this trend will continue as he sheds his outstanding work commitments over the next year or so.

I have to say that I personally am very pleased to make this award to one of the most "Can Do Characters" I have ever met. Curiously, "Can Do Character" describes the three suffix letters of his call sign.

Al Neufeld, VE7CDC, please accept this expression of our thanks.

Stan Williams VA7NF

Presented by Jim Smith VE7FO

The exec has done me the honour of requesting that I present the Surrey ARC Ham of the Year Award to a very deserving member. They also provided some suggestions as to what I might say. Here's one of them.

"This member can be described as the "well-seasoned ham" (pun intended)." Does that mean that he shows up to meetings pickled?

He is a new member who hit the road running as soon as he joined the Club, getting involved right from the get-go.

He was first licensed in his late teens after taking the Burnaby Club licence class. It was there that he got his first taste of Field Day, stringing a wire Vee beam over the area which is now referred to as Simon Fraser University. He will, no doubt, tell you many stories about what it was like to participate in a Field Day run by me in those days. Believe me, NONE of them are true.

After much of his working life spent back East he has returned home, only to find that he still has to contend with me on FD issues. This must have been a big disappointment for him! However, he seems to have overcome it.

Although he is back home in BC he is still busy doing work for clients back East.

All kidding aside, he has a formidable technical background that has contributed to SARC in many ways and on many occasions - most conspicuously at Field Day when he set up his impressive SDR and giant monitor that dazzled the media and visitors (and me). In addition, he has proposed an improved wire antenna for FD for the bands not covered by our yagis. (Oddly, he seems to not like Vee beams.) While computer modeling of the antenna's characteristics suggest that it should be a very good performer, we were not able to test it this year as we ran out of time. Just wait 'til next year!

He is a first rate CW operator - an increasingly rare ability these days - and an avid contester.

Despite his heavy work commitments, he makes the time to join the social activities, be on the Executive as a Surrey Club Director, take part in other Club activities, advance his skills and be an active member/Director of SEPAR, not to mention renovating his home.

Stan Williams, VA7NF, would you please come forward and receive this token of our thanks and gratitude for your many contributions to the Surrey ARC.



*Stan Williams and
Jim Smith*

January 2015

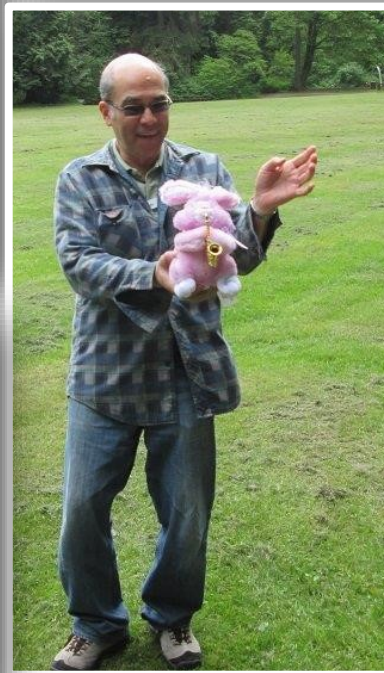
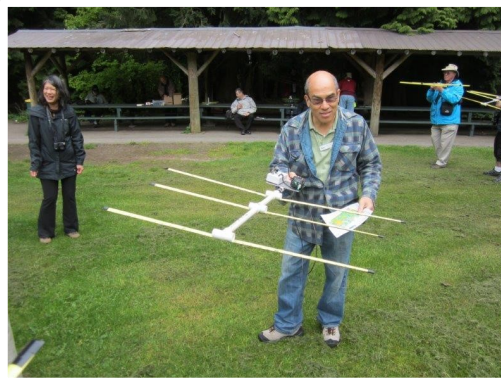
Surrey Amateur Radio Club

2014... The Year In Pictures

The Annual SARC Fox Hunt was another success. A keen group of hunters was out to locate the foxes.



Anton VE7SSD demonstrates his expert style (right) and won the coveted pink bunny again this year.



Another successful year of contest training qualified several new testers including our webmaster Howard VA7HTZ.



Alex Danese (left) was new to the club this year from Italy and quickly became one of our top testers



Joe Zaccharia VE7TOL (right) only recently got his license but has become knowledgeable on 'Pi' computers and was one of several excellent presenters at 2014 General Meetings.



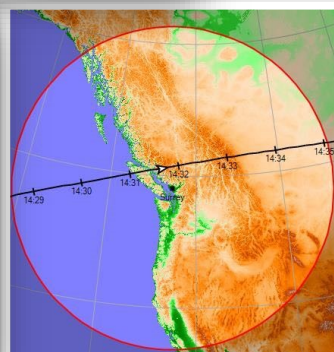
More 2014 Pictures...



Field Day is our annual 'Main Event' if for no other reason than the amount of planning and preparation.

This year we competed in the 2A category and, while we did not repeat out first place finish from last year, we did very well.

For the first time we had an opening ceremony.



Through the day, all three levels of government attended as did representatives of our served agencies and the media.



A highlight was the QSO with the International Space Station.

Our educational activity was fox hunting. Al Peterson and Joe Zaccharia provided opportunities for the public to experience our hobby. Here Al shows SARC Secretary Scott Hawrelak the 'tape measure' beam fox hunting antenna.



We also participated in the September Langley 'Cruise-In' antique and collector car event. SARC and SEPAR members staffed booths, provided information to the public and sold raffle tickets as a fund-raiser.

January 2015

Bits and Bites

Popular Electronics Magazine Archive

In addition to several other old titles, americanradiohistory.com has shared an archive of all the Popular Electronics magazines from 1954 to 1982

After a very long wait, we can finally report that the SARC repeater is now fully protected with its own airtight enclosure which isolates it from the boiler room at the Concord Pacific site.

Members may recall soon after its installation in 2012 equipment malfunctioning was experienced and attributed to excessive temperature, humidity and corrosion from the interior air as a result of HVAC design and installation problems in this new building. The enclosure combined with its new air conditioner and forced ventilation from the external atmosphere now allow the equipment to operate at a controlled temperature and humidity, completely isolated from the boiler room environment. A locked access door also provides an additional level of security for the equipment. Those members who are authorized to visit and service the repeater equipment, including BCWARN will need to request from the Concierge a key for the radio room door in addition to keys access to the boiler room. Our thanks to Dan Barnscher and Surrey Fire Services which fully funded the cost of these modifications.

~John VA7XB

For Sale

Yaesu FT840 transceiver for sale almost new condition, great starter radio for the new ham on HF. Simple controls to get on the air and be heard. AM filter installed for HF AM Price \$450.00
Contact Joe VA7JK at miketangoecho@gmail.com



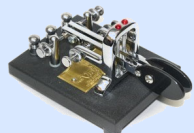
Richmond Club Basic Course

Consists of 8 classes on Saturday mornings 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon, starting on February 7, 2015 and ending with the exam on March 28th. Classes will take place in Richmond, BC in a boardroom environment at Blundell Centre.

The course fee of \$95 will include 7 classes of instructions, course study guide, instructors' notes, course exam, and call sign registration with Industry Canada upon passing the exam.

Please visit our Web site at www.rarclub.ca for the latest updates on the Amateur radio course or contact info@rarclub.ca for information on how to register, as space is limited for the course.

Tech Tip



"I'm learning to send CW. How can I check if my CW sending is up to scratch before I embarrass myself on the air?"

First, listen, then listen, and then listen some more to W1AW code practice broadcasts (or mp3 downloads) so you get a deep sense of what good code sounds like. Then, use FLDIGI with a cheap microphone to "listen" to your code practice oscillator. If it decodes what you think you are sending, you have a clean fist. On the other hand, if FLDIGI decodes what you intended to be "The quick brown fox" as "T5 Q** B RO * N FO * <BT>" you'll know you have to do lots more practice, and more carefully, at a slower speed. Oh, and do us all a favour and use a modern keyer. Most modern radios have them built in, but if not, good ones can be purchased new (in kit or pre-built form) for \$25-\$100. The better ones are very good and full of features. Any modern keyer will help ensure you get properly formed characters.

DX From A Condo?

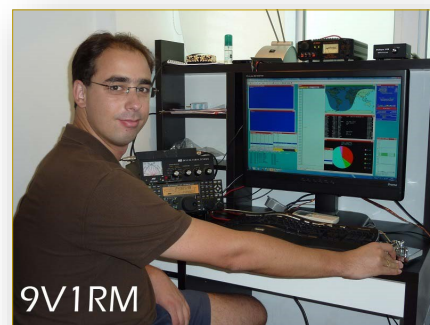
Yes, it can be done

Think you can't work DX from a condo? VE7SAR worked Singapore station 9V1RM running 100 watts into a wire antenna during the CQ WW DX contest on CW, during the weekend of November 29-30.

Equipment includes an Elecraft K3. Unfortunately 40m isn't possible as it triggers the elevator alarm even with low power.

The antennae, depending on my mood, a Moxon monoband, dipole, verticals, loops... Whatever will work best on a given day!

Power used is 100w to comply with Singapore laws.



If You Experience RF Interference (RFI) On Your Radio

Good Advice from K6UJ

RFI problems have plagued many of us, me included. First thing is to determine if the noise source is in your own dwelling or external to your dwelling. If you can power your radio from a battery temporarily, have it listening to the noise and shut off AC power to the house with the main breaker.

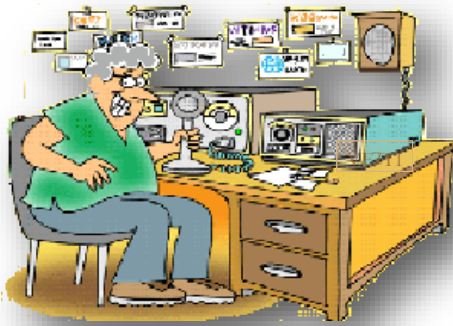
If the noise goes away it is in your house somewhere. If it doesn't then it is external to the house. If it is in the house, then one by one, turn on the circuit breakers until the noise reappears, that will be the circuit the noise maker is on. Then you can go around and disconnect one by one everything that is plugged in to this circuit. You will be able to determine where the culprit is this way.

If it is external to the house then you will need to do some checking with a portable AM radio to start with and see if you can zero in on the location. Hopefully it is inside your house. I have found a number of RFI offenders this way. The last culprit was a battery charger for a portable drill in the garage. Another one was our satellite TV receiver, I had to unplug it from the outlet to find it was an offender, even though it was turned off the power supply is always on and generating noise.

~ Bob K6UJ

"The last culprit was a battery charger for a portable drill in the garage"

January 2015



QRM

...from the Editor's shack

*Do you have a photo or bit of club news to share?
An Interesting link?*

*Something to sell or something you are looking for?
eMail it to SARCcommunicator@outlook.com for inclusion in this column.*

Good News!

**Alastair VA7YVW and
Howard VA7HTZ
recently passed the
Advanced Amateur
Radio exam conducted
by the Delta Amateur
Radio Society on
Saturday, 29 November.
They are both very
enthusiastic to receive
their new certificates**

Kjeld Wins First Prize!

As you can see from the prize table (right), there were many door prizes at the recent Christmas party. Few of those attending walked away without something in their hands.

Many thanks to those who donated prizes and to Jinty who organized the event.



Kjeld Frederiksen VE7GP (left) walked away with the grand prize, a hand-held transceiver, generously donated by Bhim Sen Nair VA7BIM.

Kjeld... no excuse for not checking into the weekly net now.

***Your SARC Directors wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.
May your QSOs be plentiful and your QRM be scarce in 2015!***



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The Lighter Side of Amateur Radio



Our 2014 Field Day Music Video
Click on the photo or go to URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/SARC2014FD>

As most of you know, for the past few years we have produce brief Field Day videos. In looking for a new idea, the thought occurred that for 2014 we should do a music video. Fortunately we had lots of content from the various photographers at Field Day.

Although without musical talent (the only instrument I play is the radio) I set out to put something together. Karaoke music was found, lyrics written (apologies to Gene Autrey and Dinah Shore) and Elizabeth Gilchrist was recruited for the vocals.

The breakfast group helped out to put together the final scene.

After many hours behind the computer, the video was ready to debut at the Christmas party. It's now posted on the web. I hope you enjoy it.

~ John VE7TI



A bit of nostalgia...
'Radio Hams'
[click on the photo]

Special Event Station

Marks the departure of his mother-in-law?

EAST YORKVILLE, Pennsylvania — A local ham will celebrate a family milestone as he activates a special event station using a 1×1 formatted call sign. Thomas LaFontana of Nottingham Township will use call sign W3M to celebrate the end of an extended visit by his mother-in-law.

LaFontana's mother-in-law doesn't like the sound of DX.

"She's been here since before Thanksgiving, for Pete's sake," says LaFontana. "I've endured about all I can stand."

LaFontana's mother-in-law has been sleeping in the guest room of his two story Tudor style home, which he shares with his wife, two kids and a Yaesu FT-1000MP.

"The guest room is next to the spare bedroom which houses my shack. Each evening when I get on the air and start working DX, she bangs on the wall and yells 'BE QUIET WITH THAT CB GADGET!' I've tried to explain to her the difference, but she won't listen. It's starting to grate on my nerves."

The 52 year-old ham was forced to skip the November Sweepstakes, CQWPX and ARRL DX contests so he could spend "quality time" with the elderly woman, who is visiting from Bakersfield, Arizona.

"She sat around talking about how bad she had it during the Great Depression," said LaFontana. "All I could think about were the QSOs I WASN'T making. That's what I call a great depression!"

LaFontana says he'll activate W3M on March 17, when he sees the taxi's tail lights pulling away.

January 2015



SEPAR Report

Fred Orsetti VE7IO



We are in the process of producing a series of articles covering the 20 year history of the SEPAR amateur radio volunteer emergency organization and one of the most progressive periods for SEPAR was the designing, building and commissioning of the three grab and go kits.

Our portable kits have been written up in QST, TCA and have had a place in the respected ARRL Handbook. Our kits have been used in a number of training exercises, past field day events and public demonstrations. The kits are a complete station and, because of the foresight of the SEPAR team, are still on the leading edge of communications technology.

Over the years we have had many inquiries into the construction of the kits and now it looks like the YouTube video is popular as well, as it has surpassed 10,000 views.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=E-a0yC--k6Q>

SEPAR has been serving the City of Surrey for the past 20 years and it all began in 1994, when the Provincial government legislated that every municipality must have an emergency plan. In Surrey, that was the beginning of the Surrey Emergency Program. At the request of the City, amateur radio was included in the plan, as it is today. Some radio amateurs, who had been part of the Provincial Emergency Program, assembled and formalized the relationship with the Surrey Emergency Program and the organization became known as the Surrey Emergency Program Amateur Radio, SEPAR.

Ken Boles, VE7FYB, who had been actively working with the Provincial Emergency Program, PEP, took on the role of the first SEPAR Coordinator. His team was Doug Barry (VE7WLF), Ken Clarke (VE7EZV now VE7BC) and Mike (VE7IDD).

The Surrey Emergency Program (SEP) designated six reception centres, located in schools, and gave SEPAR the task of installing amateur radio equipment at these locations. The reception centre schools were located around the city in the south, north, west and east. The Surrey Emergency Program required SEPAR to provide communication from the schools to the EOC located at Fire Hall Number One, 132nd Street at 88th Avenue.

The schools selected for reception centres were: Pacific Academy (Fraser Heights), North Surrey Senior Secondary (Guildford), Queen Elizabeth Senior Secondary (Whalley), Tamanawis Senior Secondary (Newton), Lord Tweedsmuir Senior Secondary (Cloverdale) and, Semiahmoo Senior Secondary (White Rock)

Funding was obtained from the city, and equipment was purchased for an EOC and six reception centers.

Amateur radio station call-signs were secured for each reception center, and EOC.

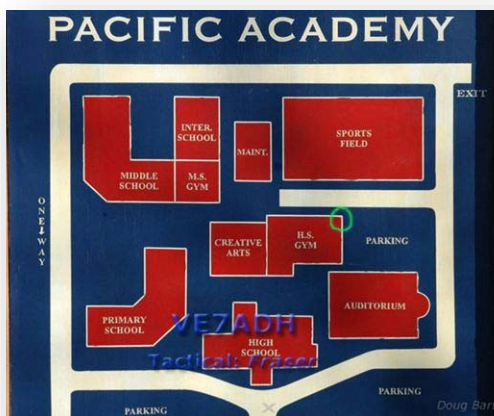
- EOC-VE7HME
- Portable EOC-VE7MOV
- Guildford Reception Center-VE7AEJ
- Whalley Reception Center-VE7ADV
- Cloverdale Reception Center-VE7ADR
- Newton Reception Center-VE7ADQ
- South Surrey Reception Center-VE7ADF
- Fraser Heights Reception Center-VE7ADH



It should be noted that when the radios were first installed at the schools (reception centres) portability of personal calls was not allowed. If you were using your own call in any location other than the address that was on your license you had to sign "portable". Therefore, each of the reception centres, the mobile unit and the radio room at the EOC required an amateur radio call so they could operate legally.

The calls which were obtained by the founding members are still very much in use today by SEPAR members.

Due to insurance requirements, professional installers, were hired by the city to install one equipment box, antenna and, coax cable at each school per SEPAR request. A technical committee of SEPAR



members, created the design and layout for a power supply/radio to be attached to each box lid! This would allow for easy unlock and deployment! A key to each site's storage box was made available.

The EOC radio equipment was packed in several large metal boxes, and stored at Fire Hall One for portability to other possible EOC sites.

Several large mail-outs and many phone hours were spent on membership drives. This was followed by large member meetings to organize SEPAR structure. The result of these many hours of volunteer time was a volunteer organization that numbered close to 100 SEPAR members.

To allow an effective callout structure, members were assigned to the reception center closest to their address. A Captain and at least one co-captain were assigned to each area reception center. Each reception center's radio and antenna were VHF/UHF with on board filters for eliminating interference from other equipment.

A program involving a Surrey Fire Department pager network was setup and key people were provided with pagers. The pagers were Motorola spirit, GE and Shinwa. They were setup on the fire department frequency. The page system was run from Hall #1, thus allowing Surrey Emergency Program to contact amateur radio operators direct, if the phone system was down. Also, since the Fire Department frequency was

easy to receive on VHF, all Surrey SEPAR members could turn on scanners and 2 meter rigs, and hear a callout for SEPAR. It was considered that if an issue big enough to take the phone system out occurred, most available hams would have mobile, handheld, or battery operated base stations and listen in for instructions. This worked well, however, there were some gotchas. Batteries had to be kept charged, the pager had to be with the person at all times while in Surrey and the pager size of the day was rather large. The program was in effect for many years.

SEPAR held a weekly net on Tuesdays. The net control operator was Mike Brolich, VE7IDD, who had a very good station set up with excellent coverage on VHF. The net ran on a simplex frequency of 146.550, the same as we use today for net control. It was not uncommon to have more than 20 check-ins. The purpose of the net was to improve and sharpen communications ability, and as a way to increase member participation. Testing of the EOC package occurred during flood watch callouts and Safety Fair setups. Each reception center setup, was put to the test during a system wide exercise. This exercise required Fraser Heights, Pacific Academy reception center to act as EOC and net control using 146.550 simplex. It was very successful as all stations could reach EOC and net control.

In the next chapter, in our look back at SEPAR, we will look at how the reception centres functioned, why SEP wanted to change the locations of the reception centres and what replaced them.

~Fred VE7IO

SEPAR Coordinator
ve7io@separs.net



If there is anyone who has information on SEPAR from years gone by and would like to share it with all SEPAR members please contact me at ve7io@separs.net and I will get back to you.

January 2015



Holiday Greetings

Fred Orsetti VE7IO

I guess it goes without saying, Christmas and New Year is a good time to reflect on all things, particularly events of the past year.

SEPAR was active in a number of community events, digital training, ARRL field day, exercises and a number of interesting meetings. We also produced our own [video](#) for PR, recruitment and sponsorship.



In the community event area we have to, once again, thank Marcy, VE7JT, for the number of hours she contributed to making the community events possible. One of these events was the City of Surrey Doors Open event which saw Marcy spending many hours organizing our display and activities with the Surrey Library. SEPAR was well organized, we had a good team, the trailer was on site, repeater paths were tested, BCWARN was activated and we were all keen to make this a good showing. However, someone forgot to tell the residence of Surrey that this well organized, keen group was on site ready to demonstrate amateur radio

and emergency communications because the public was a no-show. Were we disappointed, you bet. On the upside we managed to check out our equipment, test BCWARN and generally confirm that we could be ready to provide emergency communications, if needed.

SEPAR participated in the Cross Border Exercise with two stations, one at Surrey Memorial and one at Peace Arch District hospitals. SEPAR members passed messages using digital and voice communications using Fraser Health amateur radio equipment. This was a large exercise covering hospitals on both sides of the border and Vancouver Island. Ron, VE7VTA, was the team leader for this exercise, thanks Ron.

Another community event was Canada Day where John, VE7TI, pulled the communications trailer to the site early on July 1st and had everything ready to go. It was a reasonably nice day to display our equipment and provide handouts to the public. Trying to demonstrate radio communications at this event is difficult due to the loud music, however, it was very good opportunity to mix with public officials. For this event we received a small payment from the City in appreciation of our demonstration, thanks John. This event coincides with the RAC Canada Day contest and a couple of SEPAR volunteers operated VE7RAC in the contest from my QTH.

SEPAR had a booth at the annual Field Day event, we also provided the communications trailer for the Get On The Air (GOTA) station. The Surrey Amateur Radio Club (SARC) planning team had one SEPAR member, Stan, VA7NF. This past year's Field Day was a huge success with VE7SAR managing second place in Canada in the 2A classification. This was no small accomplishment as the winning group, VE1FO, is a serious contender. Jinty, VA7JMR, was the GOTA coach in the SEPAR trailer where many newly licenced operators had a chance to make contacts on HF, thanks Jinty.



Then came CN Family Day, and this one was a great success for SEPAR. We had the trailer on site, a very good turnout of volunteers, the weather was perfect, the radio equipment functioned well with lots of interest and Marcy had a great game for the children involving Morse Code. The game had the children on a scavenger hunt using clues in Morse Code, it was a huge success and will be repeated this coming year. We also received a donation from the City for participating in CN Days, thanks Marcy and the SEPAR team.

During the summer Don, VA7GL, ran training sessions on digital communications using RMS Express and Telnet. The training was well organized and using Telnet allowed everyone to participate. We had one "hands on" RF session on a very nice summer evening and this allowed Don to demonstrate how messages are sent using Packet (RF) rather than the Internet. From these training sessions we now have a digital net running parallel with the voice net on Tuesday evenings. The digital net is well attended and there are prizes, thanks Don.

SEPAR activated the radio room for the Simulated Emergency Test (SET) in November. Stan, VA7NF, and his SEPAR team handled traffic and made use of the VE7MOV-10 node for digital messages. This was a Provincial wide amateur radio emergency communications test with the South West PREOC handling net control

for the Province. SEPAR was one of a number of local net control stations, thanks Stan.

SEPAR participated in a Fraser River communications exercise with the RCMP under the direction of Ron, VE7VTA. This exercise was different from most SEPAR exercises in that our communicators provided communications from the north and south shores of the river. SEPAR volunteers experienced traveling back and forth across the river in the RCMP boats. The exercise was a new experience for everyone with lots of positive feedback, thanks Ron.

Several SEPAR members were recognized at the annual Surrey volunteer appreciation dinner for their contribution to SEPAR activities. It goes without saying that member contribution is the most important ingredient in a successful organization, especially a volunteer organization. As Coordinator for SEPAR I want to thank all the volunteers who, over the past year, volunteered their time and expertise in support of emergency communications for SEPAR and ultimately the City of Surrey.

We wish all SEPAR volunteers a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

~Fred VE7IO

SEPAR Coordinator
ve7io@separs.net



*We wish all SEPAR
volunteers a
Happy, Healthy and
Prosperous New Year*

Here where we are to date on the digital program...

The straw poll was in favor of digital message handling training, we will start-up after the holidays.

Most SEPAR volunteers would like to continue to check in to the Digital net.

Santa helpers are still working on a more permanent net check in system, so, until we have a solution please follow the same check in system we have been using.

The biggest problem, is Santa's elf that picks the prize draw has a cold and the whole process has ground to a halt. I'll give him some Christmas spirit and hope he recovered soon.

You'll note that digital follow the voice check procedure, that you have been using for some time.

I'll resend this reminder a couple of more times. Please remember to use the following format.

To: VE7MOV

Subject: (your call) checking in

*Text: Please check in (Your Call) into SEPARS digital net
I checked in at (Time of day) local time*

My Surrey district is (include your district or Mobile location)

Please put my name into the prize draw

January 2015



Radio-Active

Jinty Reid VA7JMR



**Al Peterson
VA7ALZ**

Al is a B.C. boy born and bred. He has lived in New Westminster for most of his life though now he lives in Langley. He attended New Westminster High School where he enjoyed playing soccer. When he was not in school Al enjoyed various outdoors activities including hiking. While attending high school he worked part-time for Woodward's Department

Store in their stock room and after graduating from High School he worked full-time for that company for about a year. For the following year he worked for Tupperware in their warehouse. At the age of 20, Al took 6 months off and drove across Canada as an adventure. On returning to B.C. he went to work for TELUS where he remained for 35 years, finally retiring in 2009. Al used to have a home based button business and still has equipment from it that he is trying to sell, anyone interested?

Al married his wife Pat, also a New Westminster girl, on July 3rd 1976 and they had 3 children; Edgar 36 who lives in Whistler, Laura 32 who lives just 2 blocks from her parents, and Mandy 25 who lives in Edmonton. No grandchildren as yet. Pat now works at A&W and both she and Al are homebodies although they do have a travel trailer in which they take annual trips to Edmonton to visit their daughter. They also enjoy their 2 year old Multi-poo called Dixie.




Encouraged by Joe Zaccaria, Al took his Basic amateur Radio license from Gary Skett in 2013 and joined SARC. He purchased a package which included a Yaesu 1200, and accessories. He also has a Yaesu 7900 and in his vehicle he has a Yaesu 8900. His favourite ham radio activity is fox hunting and monitoring the frequencies. Recently, he has become interested in building antennas and getting involved with Raspberry Pie and Arduinos.



Besides ham radio, Al likes to do woodwork, metal detecting, watch NASCAR Races (stock cars), doing his genealogy, and he still loves the outdoors although he can no longer hike due to a foot injury that required surgery. Al describes himself as a family oriented man who is very contented with his life and he states that he never gets upset or hold grudges. You are indeed a rarity Al. Good to have you in SARC.

~ Jinty Reid VA7JMR

January Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>For details on all SARC events, go to ve7sar.net</p> <p>For details on all SEPARS events, go to separ.shutterfly.com/calendar</p>			1 	2	3 Contest: ARRL RTTY Roundup
4 Contest: ARRL RTTY Roundup	5	6 1930 SEPAR Net 2000 SARC Net 147.360 MHz 110.9 Tone	7	8	9 0800 Club Breakfast: Kalmar Family Restaurant, King George Blvd & 81 st Ave	10 Contest: NA QSO Party (CW)
11 Contest: NA QSO Party (CW)	12	13 1930 SEPAR Net 2000 SARC Net 147.360 MHz 110.9 Tone	14 SARC General Meeting	15	16 0800 Club Breakfast: Kalmar Family Restaurant, King George Blvd & 81 st Ave	17 Contest: NA QSO Party (SSB)
18 Contest: NA QSO Party (SSB)	19	20 1930 SEPAR Net 2000 SARC Net 147.360 MHz 110.9 Tone	21	22	23 0800 Club Breakfast: Kalmar Family Restaurant, King George Blvd & 81 st Ave	24 Contest: BARTG RTTY Sprint
25 Contest: BARTG RTTY Sprint	26	27 1930 SEPAR Net 2000 SARC Net 147.360 MHz 110.9 Tone	28 1900 SARC Exec Meeting	29	30 0800 Club Breakfast: Kalmar Family Restaurant, King George Blvd & 81 st Ave	31

January 2015

**QRT**

John Brodie VA7XB

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Bill Gipps VE7XS

Al Peterson VA7ALZ

Stan Williams VA7NF

On the Web ve7sar.net

Between newsletters, watch your e-mail for announcements of events, monthly meetings and training opportunities. These announcements can also be found on our web page, or via:

Twitter
[@ve7sar](https://twitter.com/ve7sar)

**SARC Photos
Web Albums**

or

tinyurl.com/SARCphoto

New Year's Resolutions

At this time of year, we often take the opportunity to reflect on the past year and give some thought to the coming year, in particular what might be changed or done for the better - in other words we might be inspired to make "New Year's Resolutions". Well, one thing I can think of that needs no changes is the annual Christmas party. In my opinion, this year's party could not have been better. The turkey dinner was the best I can recall in recent years. The turnout - 50 members or guests - was the largest ever. The venue, though small, turned out to be an advantage as it provided a more compact, intimate environment that encouraged members to socialize.

The musical entertainment was most capably performed by Elizabeth, one of our own. The Field Day video, now available on You-Tube was also first rate and nicely complimented Jim's "Field Day for Dummies" presentation (actually he didn't call it that, but it was made in a less technical way than we are used to, for the benefit of the visitors - a nice touch).

Awards were given out to five deserving members who have earned the club's gratitude for contributing in outstanding ways during the past year. The door prizes, both purchased and donated, were plentiful and of the highest quality. And we shouldn't forget about the big prize - a Baofeng UV-5R handheld radio generously donated by Bhim VA7BIM. In short, it was an astounding success and, as a result, our capable organizer, Jinty Reid VA7JMR, has booked the Kalmar for the same Saturday next year when we will do it again.

Now, since the date of publication of this Communicator is New Year's Day why not consider making one or more resolutions that will enhance your enjoyment of amateur radio and, possibly, make SARC even a better club than it already is. Yes, I have recycled some of these ideas from last year, but why not? Good thoughts never go stale. If each member adopted just one recommendation of his/her choice, what a difference it would make. Here are just a few suggestions:

1. Join the ranks of the willing volunteers, without having to be pressured into it.

There are many jobs that go unfilled but could benefit from your initiative, your time and your expertise.

2. Take on "meet and greet" to make our meeting visitors feel welcome.
3. Contribute articles to the Communicator to make the publication more personal and more relevant.
4. Take on "welfare" role, to help ensure that members who are taken by illness or disabilities are not forgotten.
5. Offer to provide regular transportation for one of our vision impaired members.
6. Make a personal commitment to upgrade your technical skills.
7. Learn and become proficient in CW.
8. Join the contest group and improve your operational skills in the mode of your choice.
9. Start a special interest group and promote an activity that particularly interests you.
10. Volunteer your specialized know-how to give a talk to the club at a monthly meeting or provide suggestions for speakers that would be of interest to the group.
11. Offer to share the net control duties and expand your comfort level on VHF/UHF.
12. Offer to run for a Director's position and share the responsibility for running the affairs of the club.
13. Make a real effort to find out who needs help in getting on the air and assist that person in overcoming their obstacles to success.
14. Join and support RAC, our national amateur radio organization, which works every day to keep amateur radio alive and well in the face of technological and spectrum competition.
15. Introduce someone to the world of amateur radio and bring him/her to a meeting.

~ John VA7XB

The January Meeting

The January 14th General Meeting will feature a presentation by Staff Sergeant Ron Casey of the 'E' Division RCMP Emergency Planning Unit. Ron VA7VTA will present an insightful talk on "Strategic Issues for 2015."

The presentation will be on issues from all over the globe that could affect us as Amateur Radio operators here in Surrey BC.

This should be a very interesting presentation and will be a break from our usual technical program.

As usual, the meeting will be held at the Emergency Management BC PREOC, 14275 96th Avenue.

Ron has been active with SEPAR for the past several years and currently serves as a Director on the SEPAR Board.

He has undertaken a program to place fully portable 2 meter emergency radio kits in each of the RCMP Community Substation around the city. SEPAR members may sign out these kits for training or emergency response purposes.



Down The Log...

SARC Monthly Meetings

2nd Wed. (Sept-Jun)
1900 hrs at the
Emergency Mgmt BC
PREOC,
14275 96th Avenue,
Surrey, BC

Weekly Club Breakfast

Friday at 0800 hrs
Kalmar Family
Restaurant at
King George & 81st
Surrey

SARC Net

Tuesday at 2000 hrs
local
on 147.360 MHz (+)
Tone=110.9

SEPARS Net

Tuesday at 19:30 hrs
local
on 147.360 MHz (+)
Tone=110.9

SEPARS Monthly Training

4th Tuesday of each
month, 1900-2100 hrs
14923—64th Ave, next
to Firehall #9, Surrey.

SARC hosts an Amateur Radio net each Tuesday evening at 8 PM. Please tune in to the VE7RSC repeater at 147.360 MHz (+600 KHz) Tone=110.9, also accessible on IRLP node 1736 and Echolink node 496228. On UHF we operate a repeater on 443.775MHz (+5Mhz) Tone=110.9 and EchoLink Node 1736

	SEPARS Net	SARC Net
1st Tuesday	Drew VA7DRW Jay VE7KC Stdby	Drew VA7DRW Brett VE7GM Stdby
2nd Tuesday	Dixie VA7DIX Alan VA7BIT Stdby	Jinty VA7JMR
3rd Tuesday	Rob VE7CZV	Anton VE7SSD
4th Tuesday	Peter VE7PGX Dixie VA7DIX	John VA7XB
5th Tuesday	Jinty VA7JMR	Elizabeth VE7ELA
Want a turn at Net Control? Contact the SARC Net Manager VE7CZV @ separs.net		



We Have A New Patch!

Over the summer we received our order of 100 club patches. These are suitable for sewing on a jacket, cap or your jammies, so you can proudly display your support for the club.

The price is \$4 each or three for \$10 and they can be picked up at the meeting or a Friday morning breakfast.

We would like to thank these sponsors for donating door prizes to our Christmas Party. Please consider their products and services and say you "saw their ad in the Communicator."



Donald G. Poaps VA7DGP
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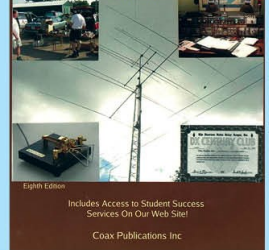
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